

Mansim language

Mansim, also known as **Borai** or **Moi Brai**, is a West Papuan language of the eastern Bird's Head Peninsula closely related to Hattam. As of 2010 there are rumours of 50 elderly speakers.^[1]

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Phonology

Mansim has five vowels: /a, e, i, o, u/, and 16 consonants.^[3]

Mansim	
<i>mor Moi</i>	
Native to	Papua
Region	Eastern Bird's Head near Manokwari
Native speakers	50? (2010) ^[1]
Language family	West Papuan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ East Bird's Head ▪ Hatam–Mansim ▪ Mansim
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	<i>None (mis)</i>
Glottolog	mans1260 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mans1260) ^[2]
	
	



Consonants

		<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Stop</u>	<u>voiceless</u>	p	t	(c)	k	
	<u>voiced</u>	b	d	(ɟ)	g	
<u>Fricative</u>			s			(h)
<u>Nasal</u>		m	n		ŋ	
<u>Semivowel</u>				j	w	
<u>Liquid</u>			r~l			

The status of /c, ɟ, h/ is uncertain, due to the single instance in the supporting text.

Like other Papuan languages, Mansim lacks a distinction between /r/ and /l/.

Stress

Mansim could have a tonal difference between homophones, since the various instances of *bar* ('something,' 'carry,' 'not') and *tan* ('inside,' 'far,' 'afraid') could need the use of a different pitch, but this is not seen in the data, although it is restricted. Stress seems to be placed in an iambic pattern over the clause, with stress placed on the second syllable. This means that person prefixes and first syllables of polysyllabic words, with the exception of full personal pronouns, are unstressed. Citation markers and possessive pronouns can be stressed, but major categories like nouns and verbs do not necessarily attract main stress.

Grammar

The basic word order of Mansim is SOV (subject-object-verb). In the noun phrase, the possessive pronoun is after the nominal position.^[3]

References

1. Hammarström (2015) Ethnologue 16/17/18th editions: a comprehensive review: online appendices
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Mansim" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mans1260>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Reesink 2002.

- Reesink, Ger P. (2002). "Mansim, a lost Language of the Bird's Head". In Ger P. Reesink (ed.). *Languages of the Eastern Bird's Head*. Pacific Linguistics. **524**. Canberra: Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies, Australian National University. pp. 277–340. [hdl:1885/146144](https://hdl.handle.net/1885/146144) ([http://hdl.handle.net/1885/146144](https://hdl.handle.net/1885/146144)).

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